

CLAIMS

Claims 1-31 (canceled)

Claim 32 (currently amended): A composite comprising a sandwich structure comprising at least two surface layers attached to a central layer of rigid epoxy foam wherein the layer of epoxy foam:

- i. comprises from about 15% to about 65% by weight epoxy resin;
- ii. is at least 1.5 times the combined thickness of the two surface layers; and the foam
- iii. has a density of from 0.2 to 1.5 gram/cc;
wherein the resulting composite has a flexural modulus as measured by ASTM D790/ISO 178 from 200 mPa to 700 mPa.

Claim 33 (currently amended): A composite according to claim [[1]] 32 in which the foam has a density of between 0.4 and 1.5 gram/cc.

Claim 34 (currently amended): A composite according to claim [[1]] 32 in which the surface layers are of metal foil such as aluminium or steel foil, plastic film or sheeting such as polypropylene or polyethylene film or polyethylene terephthalate film

Claim 35 (currently amended): A composite according to claim [[1]] 32 in which the surface layers are porous fibrous or both.

Claim 36 (currently amended): A composite according to claim [[1]] 32 in which the surface layers are fibrous and the fibres are carbon fibre, glass fibre or Kevlar.

Claim 37 (currently amended): A composite according to claim [[1]] 32 in which the surface layers are matching internal and external structures.

Claim 38 (currently amended): A composite according to claim [[6]] 37 in which the surface layers are hollow box sections or tubes.

Claim 39 (currently amended): A composite according to claim [[6]] 37 in which the surface layers are concentric tubes.

Claim 40 (currently amended): A composite according to claim [[1]] 32 in which the surface layers are of a metal that includes aluminium.

Claim 41 (currently amended): A composite according to claim [[1]] 32 in which the surface layers are of different materials.

Claim 42 (currently amended): A composite according to claim [[1]] 32 in which the composite is part of a construction building or a transportation vehicle.

Claim 43 (currently amended): A composite according to claim [[11]] 42 in which the composite is configured to provide reinforcement against crash in vehicles.

Claim 44 (currently amended): A composite according to claim [[12]] 43 in which the composite is configured to provide automobile door reinforcement.

Claim 45 (currently amended): A composite according to claim [[13]] 32 in which the composite is configured to provide strength in a sporting good[[s]].

Claim 46 (currently amended): A composite comprising a sandwich structure comprising at least two surface layers attached to a central layer of rigid epoxy foam wherein the layer of epoxy foam comprises from about 15% to 65% by weight epoxy resin, is at least 1.5 times the combined thickness of the two surface layers, and the foam has a density of from 0.3 to 0.6 gram/cc, wherein:

- i. each of the at least two surface layers has a thickness of from 0.2 to 10 millimetres and the central layer of a rigid epoxy foam has a thickness of from 2 to 200 millimetres;
- ii. the composite has a flexural modulus as measured by ASTM D790/ISO 178 from 200 mPa to 700 mPa; and

- iii. the composite has a density of from 0.1 to 1 gram/cc.

Claim 47 (currently amended): A composite according to claim [[15]] 46 in which the surface layers are of metal foil such as aluminium or steel foil, plastic film or sheeting such as polypropylene or polyethylene film or polyethylene terephthalate film.

Claim 48 (currently amended): A composite according to claim [[15]] 46 in which the surface layers are porous fibrous or both.

Claim 49 (currently amended): A composite according to claim [[15]] 46 in which the surface layers are matching internal and external structures and the surface layers are hollow box sections or tubes.

Claim 50 (currently amended): A process for the production of composite materials comprising either:

- i. providing a first porous surface layer[[.]]
- ii. impregnating laying a layer of epoxy material into the first porous surface layer
~~thereon and;~~
- iii. providing a second porous surface layer;
- iv. impregnating a layer of epoxy material into the second porous surface layer;
- v. providing a on-the-surface-of the layer of heat activatable foamable epoxy material between the first surface layer and second surface layer remote from the first layer of fibrous material and heat activating the epoxy material so that it foams and bonds to the surface layers; [[or]]
- vi. spraying a foamable epoxy material between two surface layers and allowing the foamable material to expand and cure and bond to the surface layers
wherein the heat activatable foamable epoxy material and epoxy material comprises from about 15% to about 65% by weight epoxy resin.

Claim 51 (currently amended): A process according to claim [[19]] 50 in which one or any combination of the following:

i. ~~the surface layers are porous and are coated and/or impregnated with an epoxy material;~~

i[(i)]. the epoxy material is compatible with the heat activatable foamable epoxy material;

ii[(i)]. the epoxy material cures under the same conditions as the heat activatable material cures;

iii[(v)]. the porous layers are coated and/or impregnated with the same epoxy material as forms the basis for the heat activated foamable material;

iv. the first surface layer is the outer surface of the inner component of matching structures;

v[(i)]. the first surface layer is the outer surface of the inner of two concentric tubes and the second surface is the inner surface of the outer tube; and

vii. ~~the first surface is the outer surface of an inner box section and the second surface is the inner surface of an outer box section; or~~

vii[(i)]. the matching structures are held apart to allow the foaming of the epoxy material.

Claim 52 (new): A composite according to claim 32 in which the surface layers are carbon fibre formed as concentric tubes.

Claim 53 (new): A composite according to claim 46 in which the surface layers are carbon fibre formed as concentric tubes.